

F-2-32

St. Stephen's German Reformed Church  
Knoxville  
Private

1851

St. Stephen's German Reformed Church is significant to Knoxville both for its fine architectural styling and for its role as a church and public school to the community. The church was built in 1851 according to its cornerstone on Lot #19 of Rhode's Addition to Knoxville.

On the 1858 Bond Map of Knoxville, the building is indicated as "Church German Reformed and Public School 102." It is not known how long the building served as a school, but the reformed congregation continued to flourish until well into the twentieth century purchasing additional land in 1901. But, in 1925 authorization was given to the Reverends Atvill Connor, Calvin S. Slagle and H. M. Warrenfeltz to sell the building. It has been used as a residence since that time.

The building stands impressively on a steep hillside overlooking the town and Potomac River Valley below. Of particular architectural significance is the stone construction with stepped brick cornice, recessed paneled doorways, and unusual multipaned front and side windows.

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## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC St. Stephen's German Reformed Church

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Knoxville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

M 91; P 140

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Frederick

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☐ YES: RESTRICTED  
☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Carlton Stevens

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

5 South Maple Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Brunswick

VICINITY OF

Maryland

21716

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Frederick County Courthouse

Liber #: 881

Folio #: 29

STREET &amp; NUMBER

North Court St.

CITY, TOWN

Frederick

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

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### CONDITION

\_\_\_EXCELLENT  
\_\_\_GOOD  
\_\_\_FAIR

\_\_\_DETERIORATED  
\_\_\_RUINS  
\_\_\_UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

\_\_\_UNALTERED  
\_\_\_ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
\_\_\_MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

#### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Saint Stephen's German Reformed Church is a banked two story stuccoed random stone rectangular building which faces south situated almost at the top of the hill overlooking the town of Knoxville and the Potomac River Valley leading to Harpers Ferry on the northwest.

The principal facade is three bays wide. Two main entrances are located in the first and third bays on the second level. A replaced poured concrete porch with shed roof and boxed columns is supported by an original one story stone addition which extends forward of the main block of the building on the first level and supported the original entrance porch. Both entrance doors have been replaced but are inset into the original deep recessed side and overhead paneled doorways with four light transoms.

A most unusual window is located in the center of the facade between the doorways. It is similar to a Palladian style window but has no round arch window in the center. The center window is a double hung horizontal 8/8 window, four panes wide, flanked by simple double hung 2/2 windows separated by fluted pilasters with corner blocks inset with circular molding at the top of each pilaster. The entire window is supported by a large wood lintel. A large segmented elliptical fanlight is centered in the front gable.

Located on either side of the front porch foundation addition are original vertical board doors each with one original wrought iron strap hinge.

The main block of the building extends three bays deep on both the first (basement) and second levels.

A large garage-type opening with twin vertical plank doors which must have been added when the church became a residence is located at the ground level in the second bay on the south side.

Occupying the remaining bays on both levels of the north, south and two rear bays of the church are unusual original double hung 12/4 windows with four light transoms. All windows on the second level are supported by wood lintels.

The entire building is constructed of high coursed random stone which once was entirely covered by lime stucco painted orange. Much of the stucco has now fallen off of the building, particularly on the south side, revealing the stonework.

A cut stone cornerstone is located high in the southeast corner of the building and indicates "G R Church 1851."

The entire building is covered with a replaced front gable tin roof. An original interior single brick chimney rises from the west gable end of the building.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

F-2-32

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

1851

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Stephen's German Reformed Church is significant to Knoxville both for its fine architectural styling and for its role as a church and public school to the community.

The church was built in 1851 according to its cornerstone on Lot #19 of Rhode's Addition to Knoxville.

The deed for the church land which was purchased by William Newton, Daniel Zacharias, Manassas J. Grove, Henry Kefauver, Ezra Williard and Robert McDuell from Catherine Rhodes was not recorded until December, 1852.<sup>1</sup>

On the 1858 Bond Map of Knoxville, the building is indicated as "Church German Reformed and Public School 102." It is not known how long the building served as a school, but the reformed congregation continued to flourish until well into the twentieth century purchasing additional land in 1901.<sup>2</sup> But, in 1925 authorization was given to the Reverends Atvill Connor, Calvin S. Slagle and H. M. Warrenfeltz to sell the building. It has been used as a residence since that time.

The building stands impressively on a steep hillside overlooking the town and Potomac River Valley below. Of particular architectural significance is the stone construction with stepped brick cornice, recessed paneled doorways, and unusual multipaned front and side windows.

<sup>1</sup>Frederick County Land Records, Liber ES 4; Folio 72.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., Liber 350; Folio 222.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE	
Cherilyn E. Widell, Coordinator	clh
ORGANIZATION	DATE
Frederick County Office of Historic Preservation	8/6/80
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
12 E. Church St., Winchester Hall	694-1063
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Frederick	Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 267-1438

## 7. DESCRIPTION

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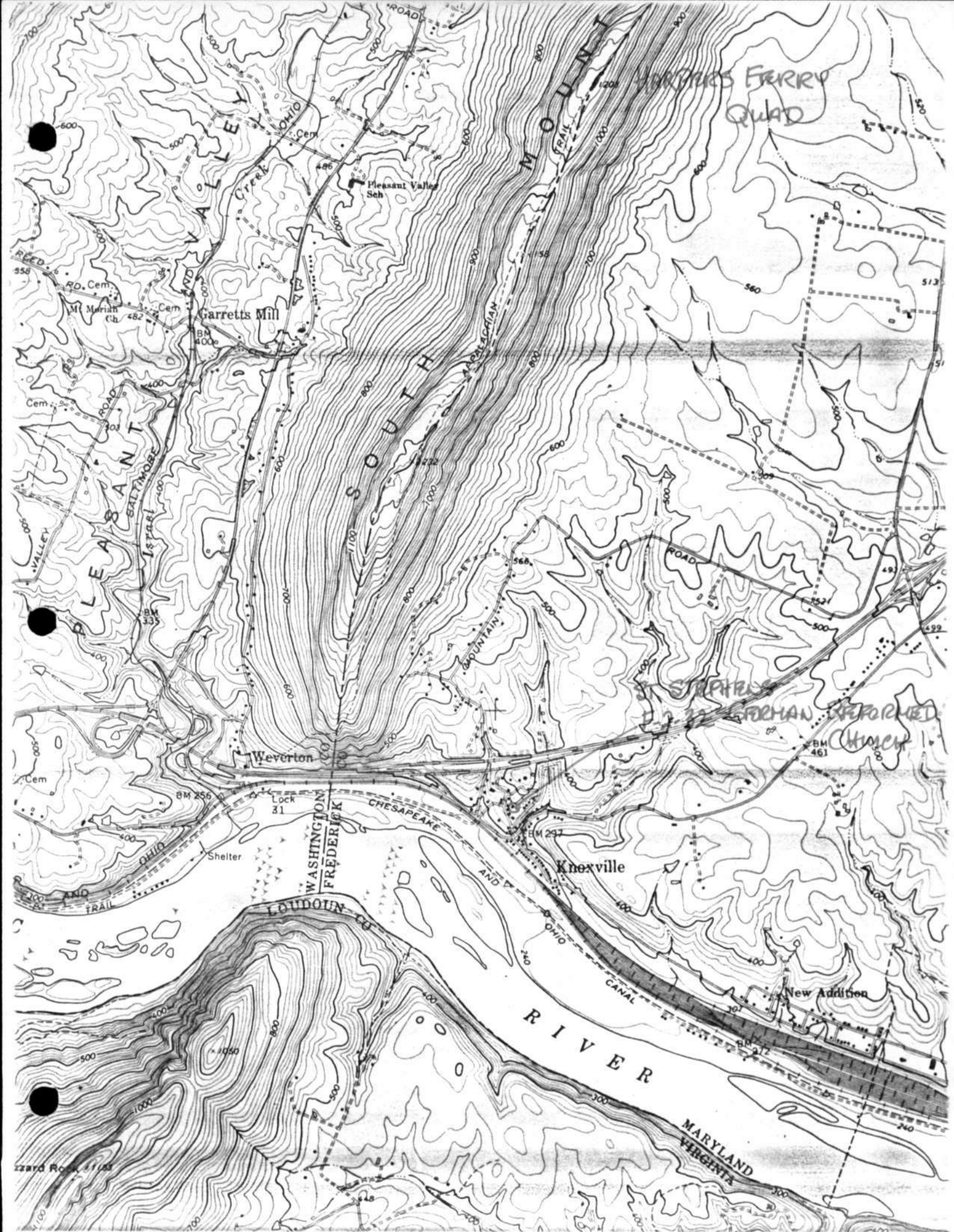
St. Stephen's German Reformed Church

The church is reached by scaling large solid stone steps out into a high front lawn supported on the edge with random stone.

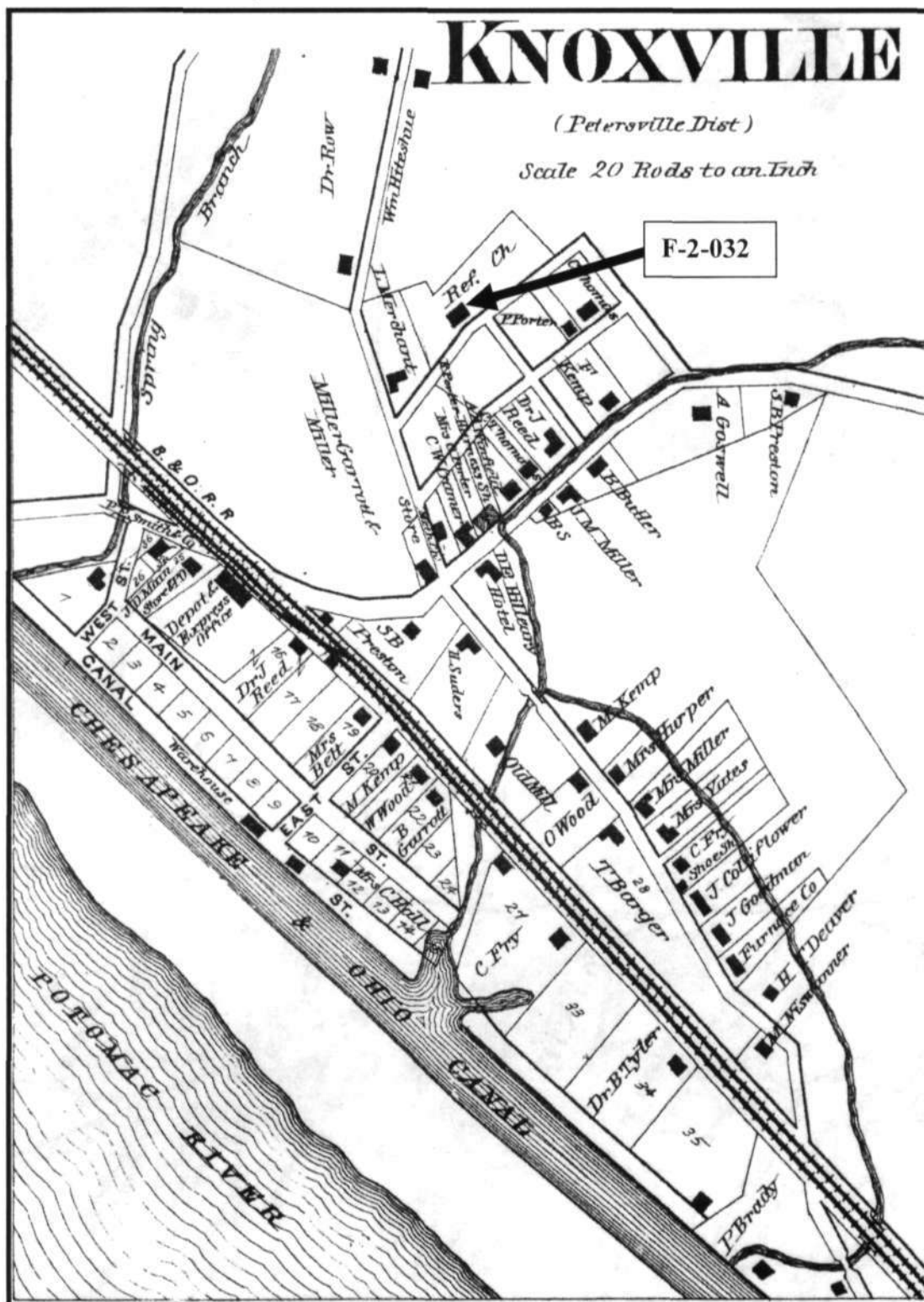
A large cemetery extends up the hill northwest of the building.

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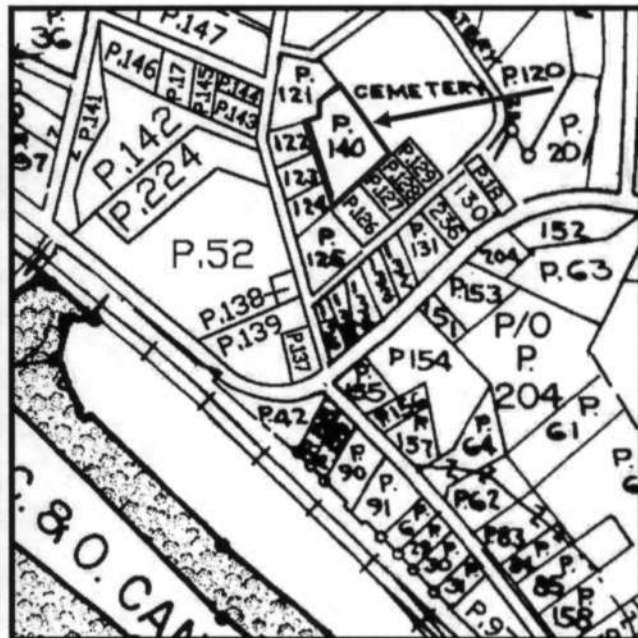
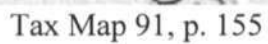
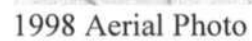


C.O. Titus & Co. Atlas, 1873





St. Stephen's German Reformed Church  
3511 Cemetery Circle, Knoxville  
Harpers Ferry Quadrangle





F-232

ST STEPHENS

GERMAN REEF

CHURCH

N/S Conelney Rd

KNOXVILLE

CREW 6/80

Santa Fe



F-2-32 ST. STEPHENS

GERMAN REFORMED

CHURCH

N/S Cemetery Rd

Knoxville

CRW 6/80

WEST FERRY





E-232 ST STEPHENS  
GERMAN REFORMED CHURCH  
W/S Cemetery Rd

KNOXVILLE

CRW 6/80

TEAST RWRV



F-2-32

ST STEPHENS

GERMAN REFORMED

CHURCH

N/S CEMETERY RD

KNOXVILLE

CRW 6/80

Southwest FLWV